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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **Hidekazu MICHIOKA et al.**

Application Number: **Not yet assigned**  
(§371 of international application No. PCT/JP2004/017633)

Filed: **May 19, 2006**

For: **GUIDE APPARATUS**

Attorney Docket Number: **062550**

Customer Number: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 19, 2006

Sir:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants direct the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. A copy of each non- U.S. document is enclosed herewith as well as an International Search Report mailed February 15, 2005.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: PTO/SB/08, Documents (3) & Int'l Search Report

Combined Form PTO/SB/08A&B  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	Not yet assigned
				Confirmation Number	
				Filing Date	May 19, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Hidekazu MICHIOKA et al.
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	062550

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
	1	US 5,634,722		6/3/1997	Nippon Thompson Co., Ltd.
	2	US 2002/0027044	A1	3/7/2002	Michioka et al.
	3	US 2002/0134622	A1	9/26/2002	Michioka et al.
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	4	JP	6-62224		9/2/1994	Nippon Thomson Co., Ltd.	Cited in ISR
	5	JP	9-42284		2/10/1997	Nippon Thompson Co Ltd	Abstract; Corresponds to #1
	6	JP	2000-227115		8/15/2000	THK Co Ltd	Abstract; Corresponds to #2 and #3

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
	7	International Search Report mailed February 15, 2005 of International Application PCT/JP2004/017633	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.